

Las Vegas FIRENEWS

1998 IABC-Las Vegas **BRONZE QUILL** Award-Winning Newsletter

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NEW STATION #10 GROUNDBREAKING CELEBRATED

by Tim Szymanski



City Manager Virginia Valentine, Councilman Michael Mack, Mayor Oscar B. Goodman, Councilman Michael McDonald, Acting Fire Chief David Washington and Deputy City Manager Doug Selby at Station #10's Groundbreaking Ceremony.

City and LVF/R personnel were on hand to celebrate the ground-breaking of our newest fire station. The ceremony took place on June 13th, at the station's proposed location on Martin L. King Drive between Oakey and W. Charleston. **SR. MANAGEMENT ANALYST ROY LAWSON** coordinated the ceremony, with assistance from the FIRE EXPLORERS and JO O'ROURKE. The event was well attended by the media.

Construction is expected to begin within the next few weeks and anticipated completion is expected in May, with LVF/R beginning operations in July 2002. An engine and rescue crew is planned for the new station.

The station, being built by **J.A. VAY & SONS**, is the same contractor that built Station #41 which opened in December. The 10,738 square foot facility will be exactly the same as Station #41 with a few minor changes according to **MANAGEMENT ANALYST II LOUIS BAKER**, who is overseeing the project. An additional dorm will be added to the rescue side of the building for a total of three dorms and an office. The main apparatus bay will be expanded to accommodate larger apparatus the department now has, such as a tiller-ladder truck. Construction cost for Station #10 is approximately \$2,620,500.

ACTING FIRE CHIEF DAVID WASHINGTON, MAYOR OSCAR B. GOODMAN, CITY MANAGER VIRGINIA VALENTINE, DEPUTY CITY MANAGER DOUG SELBY, COUNCILMEN MICHAEL J. MCDONALD and MICHAEL MACK broke ground during the ceremony. The proposed fire station is in Councilman Michael McDonald's council district. He commented during the ceremony that it has been 13 years since fire station #4 closed nearby. He feels that the new station will be responsible for reduced response times for the area around W. Charleston, Oakey, Rancho and W. Sahara, as well as for the industrial area.

Mayor Oscar Goodman also commented that this station will make the area safer, noting that his home is located only a few blocks from the new station. It was on July 3, 2000, that a fire occurred at the Mayor's res-

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NEW FIRE CHIEF TO BE SELECTED WITHIN 60 DAYS

by Maureen Pezzullo

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER DOUG SELBY recently announced that the recruitment process for Las Vegas Fire & Rescue's new Fire Chief will be conducted on an internal basis and that the selection will most likely be made within 60 days. The hiring process, which is being coordinated by the City's department of Human Resources, began on May 21st. Human Resources posted a promotional job announcement with the minimum qualifications for the position listed as follows: "The Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university with major course work in fire science, public administration or a closely related field. Six (6) years of broad and increasingly responsible fire operation, emergency medical and related experience including three (3) years of administrative and supervisory experience."

Interested and qualified applicants were asked to submit an application and a detailed resume to the department of Human Resources. The selection process will consist of a review of all applications and resumes with only the most qualified candidates participating in oral interviews and final selection. The filing period will remain open until the position is filled.

Deputy City Manager Doug Selby stated on June 1, 2001, "Effective today Deputy Chief David Washington will begin serving as Interim Fire Chief during the internal recruitment and selection process for a new Fire Chief. Please extend your support to Interim Chief Washington and the Deputy Fire Chiefs as they work to maintain the high level of service and professionalism that Las Vegas Fire & Rescue is known for. Thank you."

Chief Treviño Accepts San Francisco Fire Chief Position



Chief Mario H. Treviño

LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE'S FIRE CHIEF MARIO H. TREVIÑO

tendered his resignation to the City of Las Vegas to accept an offer to become fire chief of the **CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**, one of the major metropolitan departments in the country.

"Although we are happy on a personal level for the chief, this is a great loss to the city," **CITY MANAGER VIRGINIA VALENTINE** said.

"Since his appointment in 1996, Chief Treviño has led significant changes and modernization to Las Vegas Fire and Rescue. We wish him well in his new endeavor and thank him for his service."

During the years that Treviño led the department, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue has made great strides in service and training. The department is now considered among the best in the United States, according to fire service leaders, and is often cited in trade publications and in the media.

One of the department's most noteworthy accomplishments was the passage of the \$550 million fire safety initiative last November. As a result, four new fire stations will be built beginning later this year and 117 new firefighters, paramedics and support staff will be hired over the next two years. The department has also implemented several new programs including an emergency transport program in 1999, which is recovering well over \$1 million of city operating funds per year. In addition, important steps have been made in the areas of employee diversity and firefighter safety.

Another notable achievement is the replacement of the entire fleet of fire engines and ladder trucks with new **PIERCE**, state-of-the-art units, considered a benchmark by other fire service agencies. These are being used to replace a fleet that was dilapidated and over-utilized, averaging two emergency breakdowns per day. A return to the traditional fire engine red color has also been implemented, which not only makes the fleet more recognizable as emergency vehicles, but also adds 5% to their trade-in value when they outlive their usefulness to the city. An automatic vehicle-replacement program will be funded through the Initiative, which will ensure safe and serviceable fire vehicles for the next 30 years.

At Treviño's direction, each fire station now includes an ambulance or "Rescue" vehicle. The new rescues, easily identifiable by their red color

with white stripes, are bigger and safer than previous ambulances used by the department. Further, every fire engine has been upgraded to Advanced Life Support Level, with a paramedic on staff and on-board heart monitor/defibrillator, oxygen and drug therapy equipment. The end result is the highest level of emergency medical protection to the citizens and visitors ever achieved in the city.

In the area of **FIREFIGHTER SAFETY**, each fire station is now outfitted with a thermal-imaging camera, designed to allow Firefighters to "see" through smoke to save the lives of others or Firefighters themselves.

The department also made a transition to a new, more effective, 800 Megahertz Radio system, and each Firefighter now has a portable radio assigned to him/her, at Treviño's insistence, in case they themselves need to be rescued during an emergency. Las Vegas Firefighters also have the best possible protective clothing, and are currently taking delivery of \$1 million worth of new Breathing Apparatus, again, considered top-of-the-line for safety considerations.

"I feel that we've accomplished every goal we laid out for ourselves over the past 4 and one-half years," said Treviño. When asked what he considered his most important accomplishment, he stated, "Not a single Firefighter has been killed or seriously injured in the line-of-duty on my watch. That means everything to me." He added that any success he has had as Fire Chief is, "directly attributable to all the hard work done by the brave men and women of this fine department. It's been an honor to serve with them." He went on to say that the support given to the department by **MAYOR OSCAR B. GOODMAN**, the **CITY COUNCIL**, **CITY MANAGER VIRGINIA VALENTINE**, and the city of **LAS VEGAS MANAGEMENT TEAM** has been "unwavering and unprecedented."

Treviño previously served with the **SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT** for 24 years, and now looks forward to the challenge of becoming **FIRE CHIEF of the CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**.

The city is conducting an internal recruitment to fill the position. During the transition, **DEPUTY CHIEF DAVID WASHINGTON** will serve as **INTERIM FIRE CHIEF**.

New Station #10

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idence when a palm tree caught fire from electric wires. He believes damage would have been less if the new station had been in operation and he welcomes the new station to the area.

Station #10 will be one of the busier stations in the city. Besides providing protection to two of the largest hospitals in the Valley, the station also has busy I-15, two large hotels and casinos, a number of large estate homes and the tallest observation tower in the western United States in its response area.

Proposed staffing for the new station is: 12 Paramedics, 4 Captains, 4 Engineers and 4 Firefighters.

Mayor: Oscar B. Goodman

**City Council: Gary Reese • Michael J. McDonald • Larry Brown
Lynette Boggs McDonald • Lawrence Weekly • Michael Mack**

**City Manager: Virginia Valentine
Las Vegas Fire & Rescue**

Interim Fire Chief David Washington

Deputy Fire Chiefs: Ken Riddle • Jeffrey Morgan • Richard Gracia

The Deputy's Report:

by David L. Washington



Folks have heard me say over the past couple of years that under **CHIEF TREVIÑO'S** leadership we are working, as well as living, in "exciting times." We have experienced tremendous growth relative to the increased geographical expansion of Las Vegas, while facing challenges not to increase staff. The pioneering and progressive image of our department has become world-renowned. Prior to

Mario's arrival, we had become flat as an organization for many different reasons. I feel that now is the time for us to focus on the good that we have accomplished, while continuing to look toward the future.

Let's face the fact that it is unheard of to have a Fire Chief attain over 9 million dollars at one time to purchase apparatus, particularly by a

department of our size. Then shortly thereafter, **CHIEF TREVIÑO** led this organization on a journey to convince our voting population to pass a 565 million dollar tax initiative. Again, much of the success in passing this initiative must be attributed to his leadership.

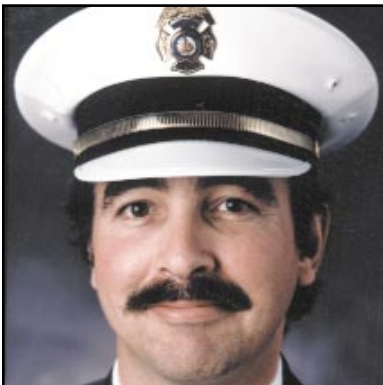
As we transition to new leadership from within our department, we must thank **CHIEF TREVIÑO** for using his influence to ensure that the selection of our next Fire Chief be considered from within our organization. I would be remiss if I didn't extend accolades to city management for having faith and confidence in the talent that this department has to offer.

Where we go from here, as a department, will depend largely upon each one of us and the group character of this outstanding organization. Senior Staff would like to challenge each and every member to stand shoulder to shoulder in unity, like never before in the history of this culturally rich organization. I say that we can and will "continue to evolve as a World Class Fire Service Agency," as the world watches to see how we respond during this time of transition.

On behalf of all the positive-thinking people of this department, I believe that we will ascend to greater heights as a result of the outstanding efforts that are continually put forth by both the civilian and uniform staff of this team. Just as importantly, on behalf of this same group, we wish **MARIO TREVIÑO, FIRE CHIEF OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**, continued success as he embarks upon his new challenge.

Fire Service Emergency Medical Conference Held In Las Vegas

by Ken Riddle, Deputy Chief



The **INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE CHIEFS (IAFC) EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) SECTION** held their annual Fire-Rescue Med conference at the **ORLEANS HOTEL** in April. This was the fourth year that Las Vegas and **LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE** hosted this international **EMS** conference. There were over 600 people in attendance and practically

every state was represented, along with attendees from Hong Kong and Bermuda. **LVF/R EMS STAFF** were among the attendees and were able to listen to presentations by **JAMES O. PAGE**, an **EMS** icon with over 30 years of **EMS** experience, primarily in fire-based **EMS**, as well as presentations by several **EMS** chiefs, managers and educators.

In addition to the excellent educational opportunities, individuals and fire departments were recognized for their **EMS** accomplishments. The annual **James O. Page EMS Achievement Award** was presented to **IAFF'S ASSISTANT TO THE GENERAL PRESIDENT, LORI MOORE**. Lori received the award because of her activities at the **IAFF** headquarters as their **EMS** program manager. In this position, she raised the level of fire-based **EMS** by arranging for the publication of several fire-based **EMS** documents that assisted fire departments in establishing or enhancing **EMS** programs, as well as providing information to effectively compete with private ambulance providers. Lori also was responsible for the **IAFF's** bi-annual **EMS** conference.

The **IAFC EMS SECTION** and **MEDTRONIC-PHYSIO CONTROL** also recognized **LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE** and **CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT** for their community **AED PROGRAM**. In the first Heart Safe Community Award we, and the other local departments, were recognized for the hotel casino programs. Las Vegas has the highest survival rates for v-fib due to the efforts of the hotel's security staffs, over 50% survival. **CHIEF MARIO TREVIÑO** was on hand to accept the award on behalf of the department.

It requires the assistance of many individuals to put on a conference of this magnitude, both at the local level as well as through the efforts of the **IAFC** staff. I would like to thank those who helped make this conference the great success that it was. My thanks to **ROCHON JONES** for his logistical assistance; **LVF/R'S EMS STAFF, HANK CLINTON, SANDY YOUNG, MIKE MYERS, SCOTT JOHNSON, EIDA FUJII**, for their attendance and being available when I needed them; and **YESSIKA ACOSTA** and **MIKE BENNEMAN** for helping me move out of the hotel. Special thanks to **EVERT WILSON** for setting up **LVF/R's** display booth; **MICKEY PEDROL** and the **LAS VEGAS FIREFIGHTERS BENEFIT ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS** who came out and sold **LVF/R** merchandise; and **TIM SZYMANSKI** for the press release which resulted in the media coverage.

Next year the **IAFC EMS SECTION** will return in the first week of May for an even better (if possible) Fire-Rescue Med conference.

EMS Week Celebrated



Chiefs fire-up the barbecue to honor paramedics



Crews enjoy barbecue lunch at station #1

CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY – 2001

by Tim Szymanski

On May 8th, 42 local residents completed the 2001 Class of the Las Vegas Fire & Rescue Citizens Fire Academy. The graduation ceremony was held

at the Charleston Heights Arts Center with full fire department graduation honors.

DEPUTY CITY MANAGER DOUG SELBY and **DEPUTY FIRE CHIEFS DAVID WASHINGTON** and **KEN RIDDLE** distributed Certificates of Completion to the graduates along with **ACADEMY**

DIRECTOR PIO TIM SZYMANSKI and **ASSISTANT ACADEMY DIRECTOR JO O'ROURKE**.

The academy started the last week in February, meeting one night each week until the first week in May. Class A met on Tuesday nights and Class B met on Thursday nights. A number of subjects were covered and instructors were used to cover topics such as: Orientation & history of LVFD, fire science, protective clothing & SCBA, fire equipment & apparatus, chain of command & incident command system, fire safety, emergency medical services, critical incident stress management, trauma intervention program, training of firefighters, CPR & first aid, communications systems, fire district maps, emergency management, special operations, tactics & strategy, citizen emergency response program, disaster relief by the Red Cross, fire station designs, computers used by the fire service, budget, Project Impact, fire investigations & bomb squad and a number of other subjects.

In addition, each participant was required to do a ride along for a minimum of four hours or for at least two responses to see how personnel work at actual emergency scenes and in the fire station. Students were given a comprehensive tour of the fire communications center and the

fire safety house. One Saturday was spent at the fire training center where they participated in a number of "hands-on" events including



Citizens Fire Academy Graduating Classes

using the Amkus tool on wrecked cars, crawling through the smoke house in full protective clothing & SCBA (using masks with air tanks), a



Citizens Fire Academy Graduating Classes

demonstration of the hazmat team decon setup and a demonstration of a ladder truck.

A number of fire personnel assisted with the academy. Those instructors included:

DEPUTY CHIEF DAVID WASHINGTON, **DFM JEFF DONAHUE**, **EMS QI COORDINATOR SANDY YOUNG**, **FTO MIKE MYERS**, **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER STAFF**, **EMC TIM MCANDREW**, **B.C. BILL WHEALAN**, **CIA BRENDA DONOHO**, **TIP REPRESENTATIVES MARIAN THOMAS &**

LINDA FETTERS, **AMERICAN RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE TED ZIDENBERG**, **ROY LAWSON**, **LOUIS BAKER**, **F.I. TIM IGNATIUK & TONY STEPHENS**, **RICK DIEBOLD**, **JO O'ROURKE** and **PIO TIM SZYMANSKI**.

Special Thanks to all the crews in the Fire Stations 1A,B,C; 2C; 3A,B; 4B; 5B,C; 6A; 7A; 9A & 42A, for assisting with the ride alongs and at the training center for field day and the **LVF/R FIRE EXPLORERS** who assisted with the smoke house exercise on field day and to **FF MARK RIVERO** for getting the vehicles for the extrication portion of the field day, which was well received by the students.

Graduates of the 2001 **CITIZENS FIRE ACADEMY** included:

(CLASS A): MARIA BADALAMENTI, **JEFF BUCHANAN**, **JONATHAN P. BUCKLEY**, **CHARLES T. COMBADO**, **BRUCE DICKINSON**, **SCOTT HOWARD**, **STEVE J. MCKLEIN**, **TIFFANY L. MOORE**, **FRED EHRLICH**, **JOSEPH GEISBAUER**, **MARGUERITE (PEGGY) HANEY**, **NETTIE HENSLEY**, **MARK**

PALMER, **JAMESON D. PERDUE**, **CESAR A. PORTILLO**, **ALEXANDER J. SANCHEZ**, **PATRICK T.C. SMITH**, **STACEY L. TERRONES**, **ROY W. THOMAS, III**, **JASON A. TORRENCE**, **EDWARD TURKEN**, **STEVEN WILFLING**, **JASON M. WILTSHIRE**, and **JOSEPH YOUNG**.

(CLASS B): MARTIN C. BANKS, **RONALD D. BOYD, JR.**, **ELIZABETH A. GRUENDELL**, **ROBERT B. CORBITT**, **EDDIE R.**

COULSON, JR., **RUSSELL J. DUNCAN**, **MICHAEL ELLIS, JR.**, **WILLIAM R. HANSEN**, **ANDREW D. HATCHER**, **DICK HOFACKER**, **LINDA M. HUGHES**, **GAVIN S. KING**, **SHANON A. POWELL**, **JOHN A. QUANN**, **FELINO SAJONA**, **STEVE C. SANSONETTI**, **KAREN A. SHELEHEDA**, and **AARON YUEN**.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADUATES!!!

Fire & Rescue Assist Neighborhood After Fatal Fire

by Tim Szymanski

It was just after 5:00 a.m. on April 12th when **LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE** was notified that a house was on fire on Seabaugh Avenue in the northwest part of the city. Engine 6 and Truck 6 were first on the scene and found a one story wood frame house heavily involved with fire. As personnel opened the doors on the engine, they were met by a young woman who was screaming, "My brothers are still inside!" **CAPTAIN LOREN (SCOTT) FULLER** on Engine 6 was considering a defensive attack while pulling up on the scene because of the intensity of the fire, but after finding out that victims were still inside, an effort had to be made to go inside.

FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC ROGER CARSTEN and **FIREFIGHTER TIM CATES** were one of the first firefighters inside the house. Fighting intense flames in the living room, they proceeded to the rear of the house down a hallway and found a small boy lying on a bed in a rear bedroom. The boy appeared to be lifeless, but the two quickly brought him out to **FIREFIGHTER/PARAMEDIC RICK LOUGHRY** and **FIREFIGHTER TROY CABRAL** on Rescue 6 who started working on the child. He had no pulse, was not breathing and had burns over 40% of his body.

While this was going on, **CAPTAIN KIRK EVANS** on Engine 3 made another search of the house along with his crew and found a 13-year-old boy lying on the floor of a different rear bedroom. He too appeared lifeless. Both boys were immediately taken to University Medical Center.

After the boys arrived at UMC, the true extent of their injuries was known. Hugo Reyes, would die of his injuries four days later. The day of the fire was his eighth birthday. His brother, Nick, stayed in UMC for several weeks suffering from smoke inhalation. He was later transferred to HealthSouth Rehab Center. Their 16-year-old sister was not injured physically, but the emotional trauma of the incident will probably stay with her the rest of her life.

Two days after the fire, one of the neighbors contacted **PIO TIM SZYMANSKI** and inquired about any programs that could help the neighborhood readjust to the loss. She said children were having trouble sleeping at night and were having nightmares about the fire. She told about adults also having difficulties dealing with the incident. **PIO SZY-**

MANSKI set up and coordinated an event that would bring both the firefighters and neighborhood together.

Exactly a week later, the same firefighters that responded to the original fire returned to the neighborhood but this time to help people cope with the after effects and to make sure the area was fire safe.

Fire Prevention Division members **DEPUTY FIRE MARSHAL BOB FASH**, **INSPECTOR TIM STICKLER** and **INSPECTOR KURT JOHNSON** took the Fire Safety House and gave classes on how to escape a burning home. Not only did children participate, so did a number of adults.

At the same time, personnel from **STATIONS 3 & 6 A PLATOON**, coordinated by

by **BATTALION CHIEF DOUG JOHNSON**, went door to door in a large area around Seabaugh Avenue and distributed fire safety literature and offered free smoke alarms to people who needed them. Chief Washington made available the nearly 100 smoke alarms that were distributed within two hours.

Another concern was the emotional well being of all the people in the neighborhood.

CIA BRENDA DONOHO coordinated an effort with **JO**

O'ROURKE and members of the **TRAUMA INTERVENTION PROGRAM** to offer assistance to anyone that needed it. A surprising number of people were given assistance and it is frightening to think of what might have happened if this effort was not taken.

One such case was that of a neighbor who lives across the street. Carla Evancho was asleep when she heard the sound of breaking glass. She got up to see what was happening and saw intense flames blowing out the windows of the Reyes' home across the street. She picked up a phone and called 9-1-1. She then ran across the street and met the boys' sister in the driveway screaming that the boys were still inside. When Evancho asked where they were, the sister said she thought they were sleeping in the living room. Entering through the garage, she got down on the floor and started to crawl into the house. She made it as far as the kitchen when she decided to turn back. She said the tile on the floor got so hot, she couldn't stand it. As she tried to retreat, the garage door, which was fully open, was no longer visible and she feared she would not escape the smoke filled house. Guessing the direction of the door,



Residents and fire crews discuss fire safety information following their tragic neighborhood fire.

Evancho was able to escape suffering from smoke inhalation. When she got out, she said the boys' sister was going around the house smashing windows with her bare hands trying to reach her brothers. At that point, fire units arrived on the scene and started their attack.

Evancho could not cope with the fact she didn't try hard enough. Members of TIP worked with her and told her nothing else could have been done. Another neighbor told of the guilt she felt because the boys asked if they could spend the night at her house. She said she had no room that night because of other children staying over that night. She felt that if she had made an extra effort, maybe the boys would not have been injured.

Earlier in the day, before the neighborhood event, members of LVF/R

attended Hugo Reyes' funeral. The boy's father, Raul Reyes, shook the hand of every firefighter that responded and thanked them for everything they did. Although the funeral mass was done in Spanish, the Priest spoke long enough in English to tell the firefighters present how much it meant to the family that the firefighters took the time to attend Hugo's funeral.

The fire was ruled accidental. **FIRE INVESTIGATORS NICK NORD-BLOM** and **ROBERT HEVEL** believe the fire started as a result of a candle left unattended in the living room.

Personnel that responded to the call and/or assisted with the neighborhood event included:

ENGINE 6

CAPTAIN SCOTT FULLER
CAPTAIN ROBERT PITTMAN
ENG. JIM JONES
FF/P ROGER CARSTEN
FF TIM CATES

TRUCK 6

CAPTAIN MIKE NELSON
ENG. MIKE BRIGMAN
ENG. ED BELLANGER
FF MIKE DAVIS
FF PERRY FIELDS

RESCUE 6

FF/P RICK LOUGHRY
FF TROY CABRAL

ENGINE 3

CAPTAIN KIRK EVANS
ENG. JOHN BANKS
FF/P JEREMY JACOBS
FF DEERICK JONES

ENGINE 203

CAPTAIN MARVIN LEONARD
ENG. PAT BUELL
FF/P ANDY ANDERSON
FF RYAN WYNN

RESCUE 3

FF/P ROBERT DIAMOND
FF GLEN PHILLIPS

TRUCK 3

CAPTAIN THEO ADAMS
ENG. BILL RAMTHUN
FF RAFFI TASHJIAN
FF ANDREW LEWIS

ENGINE 5

CAPTAIN GEORGE GOLDBAUM
ENG. BRAD HANNIG
FF/P DAN STOUT
FF TOD WORPELL
FF TIM KLINE

RESCUE 5

FF/P CHRIS RIEFFER
FF DEVIN CONTRERAS

RESCUE 2

FF/P BILL ARVIZU
FF MELIA HOGAN

SQUAD 1

ENG. TIM JOLLY

BATTALION 4

BATT. CHIEF DOUG JOHNSON

INVESTIGATIONS

NICK NORDBLUM
ROBERT HEVEL

PUBLIC INFO

TIM SZYMANSKI

INSPECTIONS

ROBERT FASH
TIM STICKLER
KURT JOHNSON

CISM

BRENDA DONOHO
JO O'ROURKE
TIP

ADMIN.

DEPUTY CHIEF KEN RIDDLE



LETTERS TO THE CHIEF

January 27, 2001

DEAR CHIEF TREVIÑO:

I would like to express my appreciation to one of your employees, Ms. Sheri-Lee Piker. She came to Centennial High School on one of her days off to speak to a couple of Career classes. Through her efforts, she reached about 80 ninth graders and left literature with the counseling department about fire-fighting and EMT work. Her talk was organized and interesting. The students asked many questions to which she gave clear answers; of particular note is her unabashed enthusiasm for her job. For the above reasons, she makes a superb recruiter for your department.

Ms. Piker's efforts and talents are to be commended. Please express my appreciation to her.

**Sincerely, Alison Tichenor, Teacher,
Centennial High School**

February 20, 2001

DEAR CHIEF TREVIÑO:

My name is Nick Blancato and I am 12 years old. I want to become a fire-fighter when I get older. My mother is on the Western Little League Board of Directors with Firefighter Mark Robles. Mark is stationed at Station #3. Last Thursday my Mom needed to pick up a form from Mark at the station. On Thursday Mark called to say that he had been sent to Station #4 for the day, but left the form for us at Station #3.

When we got to Station #3, we asked if someone had time to give us a tour. Brandon told us a little about himself. Then he showed us the trucks and explained how they worked. When we got to the station, the Rescue Unit was out, but luckily it came in before we left. I got to see the jaws-of-life and the other equipment on the unit.

I'd like to thank firefighters at Station #3, especially Rookie Israel, for their time and information. I can't wait until I'm 16 and can join the Explorers.

Sincerely, Nick Blancato, LV, NV

March 2, 2001

TO THE CREW OF TRUCK 1-A:

(Capt. Berg, FF Walls, FF Roeder, Eng. Phillips)

On February 25th, I was very lucky to have all of you on the right shift for my 9-1-1 call. You were all so great in doing a very super job in my hour of need. At about 7:00 p.m. the doctor put my hip back in place and I was free of pain when I recovered in the operating room. He pulled my leg twice and the artificial hip returned to the socket.

Thank you so very much. It was a job very well done. Also personal appreciation for follow-up phone call.

Sincerely, Dotty Tsitouras, Las Vegas, NV

March 8, 2001

DEAR CHIEF TREVIÑO:

I am writing to express my firm's gratitude for the cooperation of Las Vegas Fire & Rescue in Urban-Environmental Research's efforts at projecting potential fiscal costs of shipping high-level nuclear waste through the Las Vegas Valley. At our meeting in August 2000, you pledged your department's cooperation in aiding us to fulfill the terms of our contract approved by the Las Vegas City Council. At that time, I did not fully understand how critical to the success of the project this cooperation would be, or how important the competence of your personnel would be in the completion of the research. I think it is particularly important for me to single out one individual for some well-deserved accolades.

Battalion Chief William Whealan was charged, after meeting with Deputy Chief Gracia, to provide me with all of the necessary data, the organizational information necessary to determine current capacity, and the initial estimates of need and their cost projections should shipment of the waste begin in 2007. Bill Whealan met with me on numerous occasions to answer my questions, and to clarify some of my misunderstandings. His work product was exemplary in every respect, and it has served as a model for some of the other communities. Our contract proved to be more difficult than originally anticipated, and it was finally completed successfully in no small part because of Bill Whealan's efforts. In my business experience it has been very rare to

encounter an individual with such a positive team orientation who displays the type of competence Chief Whealan demonstrated, and it has been my pleasure to work with him.

Once again, thank you very much for your help and cooperation in completing this important project.

**Sincerely, Alvin Mushkatel, Ph.D.
Urban Environmental Research, LLC**



April 19, 2001

TO: TIM SZYMANSKI:

I would like to see if I could receive a complimentary copy of your LAS VEGAS FIRENEWS newsletter for a class assignment. We have to critique a newsletter, brochure and pamphlet and I find your newsletter to be quite extraordinary. Thank you,

**Sheri Harris, Administrative Aide
Oklahoma City Fire Department**

March 2001

TO: TIM SZYMANSKI:

Thank you for going the extra mile to help us with our Bee Problem on Atwood and for making our homes safe once more for our children and pets. Since you didn't take any of the hives with you, I had copies of my neighbor's pictures made for your interest. Again - Thank you.

Christa Brozovich, Las Vegas, NV

P.S. Please thank your firefighters (E 42-B) and Bee Specialist also.

March 2001

TO: TIM SZYMANSKI:

We want to thank you for talking to us about the Africanized Bees. I feel we all learned a lot about bees. We could all see why you are nationally known on the subject of bees.

If you know of any other subjects that our guys need to be updated on, please call us up and we could set a time for that subject.

**Thank you, Debbie
Sierra Plan Room, Las Vegas, NV**

April 11, 2001

DEAR CHIEF TREVIÑO:

We are writing to commend Ms. Janice Ryan for the work she has done on updating the health professionals contact list that was initiated by the Clark County Health District (CCHD) Office of Epidemiology. Ms. Ryan, under the direction of Mike Myers, has revised the original database using a listing provided by the Nevada State Medical Licensing Board and adding or deleting names as necessary. The list, which includes the name, address, phone and fax numbers of Clark County physicians, will become the building block for emergency medical and other health alerts, an important part of the CCHD Preparedness Program.

Ms. Ryan has been thorough and conscientious in her work. To assure accuracy of fax numbers she called over 1,500 physicians' offices to confirm the numbers. Ms. Ryan has continued to work very hard with our Bioterrorism Preparedness Trainer, Ms. Sunny Lucia, cross-checking this list with one provided by the Clark County Medical Society. When this initial development phase is completed, both of our agencies will have the most up-to-date and accurate registry for physician contact in the country.

We would again like to compliment Ms. Ryan for her efforts. We look forward to continuing our excellent relationship with Las Vegas Fire & Rescue.

**Sincerely, Donald S. Kwalick, MD, MPH
Chief Health Officer, Clark County Health District
& Rose L. Bell, PhD, MPH Epidemiologist
Manager, Clark County Health District**

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Budget News

by Roy Lawson



We have just received our new **FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2002** budgets and the numbers look impressive. Our Department will be adding 40 new positions, which include:

**3 Assistant Fire Chiefs
3 Paramedic Coordinators
3 Training Officers
2 Fire Prevention Inspectors**

**2 Fire Equipment Mechanics
2 Office Specialists
1 Assistant Fire Protection Engineer
Staffing for Station #10
(4 Captains, 12 Paramedics, 4 Engineers & 4 Firefighters).**

Our overall budget increased over 9%, from \$53.5 million to \$58.4 million, due to increases in various line items and the total salaries/benefits associated with the 40 new positions. The new Suppression positions for Stations #43, #44, and #45 will not be budgeted until next fiscal year.

Our **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER** operations budget increased from \$4.5 million to \$5.4 million thanks to increases in the salaries/benefits categories along with a huge increase in the Depreciation line item for communications equipment.

In the **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS (CIP)**, we received funding for:

**Diesel Exhaust Systems (\$120,000)
Voice/Station CAD Upgrades (\$213,000)
CAD/RMS (\$510,000)
AVL Replacement (\$750,000)
Paramedic Pen Based System (\$500,000)
Fire Station #10 (\$4,103,435)
Fire Station #43 (\$3,148,670 Partial Funding)
Fire Station #44 (\$2,998,770 Partial Funding)
Fire Station #45 (\$3,209,872 Partial Funding)
Rescue Bay Additions for Stations 2,7, and 9 (\$1,845,000)
Fire Training Center Perimeter Fence (\$207,000).**

All other CIP projects that were submitted but not funded should be reapplied for next year.

In these times of budget constraints, LAS VEGAS FIRE & RESCUE once again did very well regarding fiscal allocations. The new fiscal year starts July 1st and I held meetings with each division chief in June to discuss their new budgets and spending plans. To our members, thank you all for your help and support of our fiscal management throughout the year.

Chief Riddle Elected President Of The Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association

by Mareen Pezzullo

The "President's Gavel" changes hands between outgoing **SNFCA** President Kevin Chapman (r), to newly elected President Ken Riddle (l), during the **SNFCA** annual workshop.

At their annual workshop in Mesquite, Nevada, on April 26th, the **SOUTHERN NEVADA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION** welcomed incoming **PRESIDENT KEN RIDDLE** (Las Vegas Fire & Rescue), as he assumed the reigns of Association President.

The **SOUTHERN NEVADA FIRE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION (SNFCA)**,



*The "President's Gavel" changes hands between outgoing **SNFCA** President Kevin Chapman(r), to newly elected President Ken Riddle(l), during the **SNFCA** annual workshop.*

was formed in 1988, as an outgrowth of the previously informal association of the 'five bugle chiefs' from the Las Vegas Valley. These five fire chiefs represented the five major fire departments in the area; Las Vegas, Clark County, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City.

When the Association was formed, it opened its doors to all Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs at the rank of Battalion Chief or above. Membership included associates from the **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT** and the **U.S. FIRE SERVICE**, as well as from the many smaller fire departments in the southern part of the state.

The charter group of fire chiefs believed that, as an organization, they could more effectively address the common challenges facing the growing fire departments and mutually benefit from each other's experience. As a group, they formed a Legislative Committee and were able to work together to support or discourage legislation impacting fire service in Southern Nevada. Association members believed that by coming together, the citizens and visitors to Southern Nevada would benefit from the most comprehensive and up-to-date fire protection and emergency medical service possible.

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LVF/R Members Honored



Chief Riddle congratulates FPI Reggie McCollins and FF/P Joe Richard for taking quick action in saving the life of a heart attack victim on Rancho Drive.



Chief Morgan congratulates Janice Ryan on her most recent academic and departmental achievements.



Chief Clinton and Chief Gracia join in congratulating the crews of Engine 4 and Engine 204 (Engineer Paul Shapiro, FF/P Kirk Casperson. FF/P Troy Askew, FF Charles Aday, FF Raffi Tashjian, Captain Jim Gordon, and Captain Grant Grove: for their outstanding team effort in responding to a recent incident.

Chief Riddle Elected President...

Continued from Page Nine

From this Association, the **SOUTHERN NEVADA FIRE PREVENTION COUNCIL** and the **SOUTHERN NEVADA TRAINING COUNCIL** grew. These organizations have been highly effective in addressing issues relating to Fire Prevention and Training in Southern Nevada, including the development of a joint recruitment and testing program (F.I.R.E.S.) between the Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, and Boulder City departments and their Human Resources departments.

The Association's first President was **FIRE CHIEF BOB SEARS** (retired) of the **BOULDER CITY FIRE DEPARTMENT**. During the ensuing years, representatives from many area departments assumed the Association's leadership position, with the most recent being **CHIEF KEVIN CHAPMAN** of the **CLARK COUNTY FIRE DEPARTMENT**. Chief Chapman was commended for his service at the April 26th meeting and the members thanked him for the dedication and commitment that he brought to the job.

During their workshop, Association members discussed their goals for the upcoming year and are pursuing an initiative to bring quality fire related seminars to the area for the benefit of its many fire service members.

Congratulations to Chief Riddle on his appointment, and to the dedicated members of the Southern Nevada Fire Chiefs Association.

Welcome

**Fire Equipment Mechanic I
Gayland Imai,
who was hired on April 30, 2001,**

and

**Intern Nathan Jon Trauernicht
from Oklahoma State University,
who is working this summer
on a variety of department
related assignments.**

Take Our Children To Work Event Outstanding!

by Maureen Pezzullo



Thanks to detailed planning on the part of **SENIOR OFFICE SPECIALIST JANICE RYAN**, along with a host of enthusiastic volunteers department-wide, over 100 children participated in this year's **TAKE OUR CHILDREN TO WORK** program.

On April 26th, which is National Take Our Daughters To Work Day, children between the ages of 8 - 16, were able to observe first hand the various career paths of our fire service professionals.

To begin the morning, a delicious pancake breakfast was prepared by **STATION 1-B CREWS**, and a hot-dog lunch was cooked and served by **CHIEF WASHINGTON** and **CHIEF GRACIA** later on that day. Tours of Station #1,

the **FIRE SAFETY HOUSE** and the **COMMUNICATIONS CENTER** were given to participants and **CHIEF WASHINGTON** spoke briefly during the lunch break about careers in fire service. A video on firefighting was shown in the EOC and the use of the Cairns unit was demonstrated.

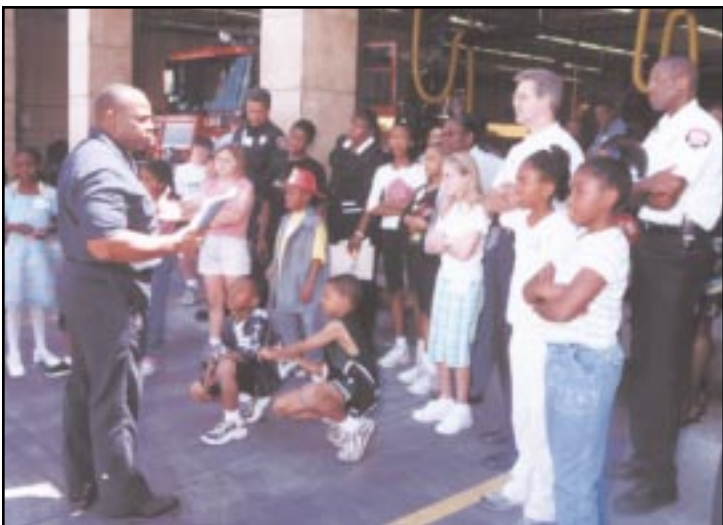
After lunch, **B PLATOON CREWS** gave a demonstration of the new ladder truck and youngsters had their faces painted. "Balloons with a Twist" made creative balloon hats for each participant. In addition, each child received an "event memento gift bag" consisting of colored pencils with engine, helmet and hydrant erasers, along with key chains, hats, tee shirts, lapel pins and patches (donated by the Las Vegas Firefighters Benefit Association.)

It took many people to produce this program and our thanks go out to everyone who contributed.



Firefighter William Spears demonstrates use of the fire hose.

Special thanks to: **JANICE RYAN, CAPTAIN PEDROL, TIFFANY LOPARDO, YESSIKA ACOSTA, CHIEF HORTT, STATION 1-B PLATOON CREWS, JO O'ROURKE, SHARON MENNO, CAPTAIN MCCASTLE, CHIEF GRACIA, CHIEF WASHINGTON** and **EVERT WILSON**, for their wholehearted support and outstanding contributions to the success of this event. As in years' past, **FIRE & RESCUE** was the place where **EVERYONE** (children of City staff) wanted to be and we were happy to have the opportunity to educate and entertain our children!



Captain Dexter McCastle talks about the life of a firefighter.



LETTERS TO THE CHIEF

Continued from Page Eight

April 11, 2001

DEAR CHIEF TREVIÑO:

We would like to thank you for giving us the opportunity to work with Mike Myers in his position as Project Manager of the Metropolitan Medical Response System. Mr. Myers has provided valuable assistance so our efforts to develop an up-to-date fax list of area medical professionals to that bioterrorism alerts (and other important information) can be disseminated in a timely manner to the medical community. He assigned the task of updating our fax database to clerical personnel under his supervision and has also volunteered clerical support in entering data that will be returned from the Physician Bioterrorism Training Assessment Survey that will soon be taxed to area physicians.

In addition, Mr. Myers is assisting us in the formative stage of our bioterrorism recognition and report training program for the medical community. A key to meeting the challenge of bioterrorism is training the "early recognizers," our term for medical professionals when discussing bioterrorism. The medical community needs to report suspicious infections and syndromes to the Health District's Office of Epidemiology for investigation. Mr. Myers understands the importance of the role of epidemiology in bioterrorism preparedness and has been extremely supportive. He has identified resources for the training program, participated on the interview panel for our

Bioterrorism Preparedness Trainer and attends planning meetings.

Again, we want to express our appreciation for Mr. Myers' professionalism, hard work and spirit of cooperation. We look forward to continuing opportunities for collaboration with Las Vegas Fire & Rescue.

Sincerely, Donald S. Kwalick, MD, MPH
Chief Health Officer, Clark County Health District
& Rose L. Bell, PhD, MPH Epidemiologist
Manager, Clark County Health District

April 30, 2001

DEAR CHIEF TREVIÑO:

I would like to take this time to extend a thank you to everyone I was able to meet at Station 1-B on April 28, 2001. This opportunity was made possible through the City of Las Vegas Citizens Fire Academy and Tim Szymanski. This allowed me time to see the importance to our community of each individual within your department. Their kindness and hospitality was very much appreciated. I am confident my fellow citizens are able to receive the same receptive and informative crew I was able to observe. Again, I would like to thank you for an outstanding and informative evening.

Sincerely, Stacey Terrones,
Citizens Fire Academy 2001-A

Newsletter Credits

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